

## Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 COME-00 EB-07 LAB-04

SIL-01 AID-05 AGR-10 /077 W  
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P R 212012Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9809

INFO DIA WASHDC

USIA WASHDC

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 1573

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BBAK, PINT, HO

SUBJECT: CONTINUED REACTION ON UB SCANDAL

REF: TEGUCIGALPA 1546

1. EVEN IN THE ABSENCE OF NEW DEVELOPMENTS OR REVELATIONS THE UNITED BRANDS SCANDAL CONTINUES TO OCCUPY FRONT PAGES OF HONDURAN NEWSPAPERS ALMOST TWO WEEKS AFTER THE STORY ORIGINALLY BROKE IN THE U.S. THE HEADLINE OF LA PRENSA'S APRIL 19 EDITION REFERS TO A PINU (PARTY OF INNOVATION AND UNITY) DECLARATION AND SAYS, IN BRIGHT COLORED LETTERS, "LOPEZ SHOULD SURRENDER THE POSITION OF CHIEF OF STATE." THE PINU DECLARATION, WHOSE FULL TEXT APPEARS IN LA PRENSA'S INNER PAGES, DOES NOT CALL FOR LOPEZ' RESIGNATION BUT RATHER ASKS THAT HE "DEPOSIT" THE POSITION OF CHIEF OF STATE WITH THE SUPERIOR DEFENSE COUNCIL UNTIL THE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE HAS FINISHED ITS WORK. PINU ALSO ASKS THAT THE CABINET SUB-MINISTERS ASSUME TEMPORARY CONTROL OF

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THE MINISTRIES BECAUSE IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO INVESTIGATE

OBJECTIVELY PERSONS CURRENTLY HOLDING HIGH GOVERNMENT POSITIONS. PINU STATES THAT THE CURRENT SCANDAL IS NO ISOLATED EPISODE BUT RATHER THAT IT FOLLOWS "A LONG CHAIN OF ASSAULTS ON THE TREASURY, BRIBERY AND MEDDLING INFLICTED ON HONDURAS" BY BOTH FOREIGNERS AND HONDURANS.

2. THE LEAD STORY OF THE APRIL 19 EL CRONISTA SAYS THAT THE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE HAS RETAINED THE LEGAL SERVICES OF EX-SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CLARK CLIFFORD. IN REMARKS PUBLISHED APRIL 21 BY LA PRENSA, COMMISSION COORDINATOR REINA CONFIRMED THIS REPORT.

3. THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST TEACHERS ORGANIZATION COLPROSUMAH (CHRISTIAN-DEMOCRATIC ORIENTATION) HAS ISSUED A STATEMENT SUGGESTING THAT THE UB SCANDAL RESULTS FROM A PLOT TO DESTROY GRWOING DEMOCRACY IN HONDURAS WITH THE VIEW OF MOVING THE COUNTRY TO THE RIGHT. COLPROSUMAH SAYS THE PEOPLE SHOULD DEMAND THE "RECUPERATION OF THEIR (BANANA COMPANIES) RESOURCES THAT, WITH THE COMPLICITY OF OTHER GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN TAKEN AWAY..." "COLPROSUMAH SUGGEST THAT THIS IS THE RIGHT MOMENT TO PROCEED TO A RIGOROUS REVIEW OF THE BANANA CONCESSIONS AND THAT ALL CLAUSES WHICH ARE PREJUDICIAL TO THE NATIONAL INTEREST BE REPUDIATED."

4. THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED A DIPLOMATIC FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY DATED APRIL 17 WHICH SAYS THAT THE INVESTIGATING COMMITTEE WILL TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON THE WEEK OF APRIL 21. THE NOTE ASKS THAT THE EMBASSY "INTERCEDE" WITH THE USG SO THAT THE COMMISSION WILL NOT ENCOUNTER OBSTACLES IN CARRYING OUT ITS DUTIES.

5. ALTHOUGH THERE HAVE BEEN NO NEW DEVELOPMENTS THE EDITORIAL WRITERS CONTINUE TO DEVOTE GREAT SPACE TO THE UB SCANDAL, GENERALLY MAKING VARIATIONS ON THE THEMES OF NATIONAL HONOR AND THE NEED TO CLEAN UP THE GOH'S ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESSES. LA PRENSA IS NOW DEVOTING ITS LEAD EDITORIALS TO ONE OF ITS FAVORITE SUBJECTS, THE RETURN TO CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT. LA PRENSA IS REPEATING THE THESIS THAT THE POLITICAL PARTIES WERE NOT INVOLVED IN THE SCANDAL AND THAT ONLY THEY CAN RETURN THE COUNTRY'S HONOR.

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6. AT MIDDAY APRIL 21, THERE HAD STILL BEEN NO PRESS COMMENT CONCERNING MINECON BENNATON'S APRIL 20 SPEECH. SANCHEZ

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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